



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 7104

January Session, 2025



AN ACT CONCERNING PROGRAMS TO MITIGATE THE BENEFITS CLIFF.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (d) of section 17b-112 of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
3 *2025*):

4 (d) (1) Under said program, no family shall be eligible that has total
5 gross earnings exceeding the federal poverty level, however, in the
6 calculation of the benefit amount for eligible families and previously
7 eligible families that become ineligible temporarily because of receipt of
8 workers' compensation benefits by a family member who subsequently
9 returns to work immediately after the period of receipt of such benefits,
10 earned income shall be disregarded up to the federal poverty level. On
11 and after October 1, 2023, the commissioner shall not deny a family
12 assistance under said program on the basis of such family's assets unless
13 such assets exceed six thousand dollars. Except when determining
14 eligibility for a six-month extension of benefits pursuant to subsection
15 (c) of this section, the commissioner shall disregard the first fifty dollars
16 per month of income attributable to current child support that a family
17 receives in determining eligibility and benefit levels for temporary
18 family assistance. Any current child support in excess of fifty dollars per
19 month collected by the department on behalf of an eligible child shall be

20 considered in determining eligibility but shall not be considered when
21 calculating benefits and shall be taken as reimbursement for assistance
22 paid under this section, except that when the current child support
23 collected exceeds the family's monthly award of temporary family
24 assistance benefits plus fifty dollars, the current child support shall be
25 paid to the family and shall be considered when calculating benefits.

26 (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (1) of this
27 subsection, on and after January 1, 2024, in the first month in which a
28 family's total gross earnings exceed one hundred per cent of the federal
29 poverty level and for a period not to exceed six consecutive months, the
30 department shall disregard, for purposes of eligibility, a family's total
31 gross earnings in an amount not to exceed two hundred thirty per cent
32 of the federal poverty level. If a family's total gross earnings are an
33 amount between one hundred seventy-one per cent and two hundred
34 thirty per cent of the federal poverty level, the department shall reduce
35 the household's benefit by twenty per cent for the months in which
36 earnings are between one hundred seventy-one per cent and two
37 hundred thirty per cent of the federal poverty level.

38 (3) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (1) of this
39 subsection, the commissioner shall disregard any financial assistance
40 received by a family member to the extent the commissioner determines
41 that such financial assistance was provided to the family member as part
42 of such family member's participation in a pilot program that has
43 developed a plan to study and evaluate the impact and potential
44 benefits of direct cash transfers. Such disregard shall be applied for the
45 length of time the family member participates in such program or
46 twenty-four cumulative months, subject to reauthorization by the
47 commissioner for a period of time not to exceed sixty cumulative
48 months. Any pilot program subject to the provisions of this subdivision
49 shall have received approval from the Department of Social Services to
50 conduct such pilot program based on the department's ability to receive
51 required waivers authorizing such income disregards in applicable
52 federal and state benefits programs. The department shall request
53 waivers authorizing such income disregards from all federal, state and

54 local agencies as necessary. The department shall maintain a listing of
55 approved pilot programs for use by the public and department staff
56 when determining continuing eligibility of participants in existing
57 benefits programs. Before approving a pilot program, the department
58 shall review such program for long-term sustainability and ability to
59 meet the pilot program's programmatic and fiscal goals. The
60 department shall require an approved pilot program to (A) inform
61 potential participants, in writing in advance of participation in the pilot
62 program, of the potential impact of their participation on their current
63 and future eligibility for federal and state benefits, and (B) include
64 contact information in such written document to allow such participants
65 to obtain additional information or guidance on the impact of pilot
66 program participation on their eligibility for such benefits.

67 (4) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (1) of this
68 subsection, the commissioner shall disregard from an income eligibility
69 determination any stipend received by a family member as part of such
70 family member's participation in a job training program approved by
71 the commissioner, including, but not limited to, payments from
72 programs offered by or through the Office of Workforce Strategy
73 established pursuant to section 4-124w, the Bureau of Rehabilitation
74 Services within the Department of Aging and Disability Services or a
75 private not-for-profit organization that is exempt from taxation under
76 Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or any
77 subsequent corresponding internal revenue code of the United States,
78 as amended from time to time. Such disregard shall be applied for the
79 length of time the family member participates in such program, not to
80 exceed thirty-six cumulative months.

81 Sec. 2. (*Effective from passage*) (a) For purposes of this section, "benefits
82 cliff" means the loss or decrease of public assistance program benefits
83 when a beneficiary's income exceeds eligibility thresholds. The
84 Commissioners of Social Services and Early Childhood, in consultation
85 with the Department of Housing, the Labor Department, the Office of
86 Workforce Strategy, established pursuant to section 4-124w of the
87 general statutes, and the two-generational initiative, established

88 pursuant to section 17b-112l of the general statutes, shall, within
89 available appropriations, establish a pilot program to implement the
90 recommendations of the report concerning benefits cliffs that was
91 submitted to the General Assembly in accordance with the provisions
92 of special act 24-8.

93 (b) In developing the pilot program, the commissioners shall convene
94 and solicit input from professionals with expertise in the fields of
95 universal basic income, including, but not limited to, (1) professionals
96 from other jurisdictions who have worked on the implementation of
97 similar pilot programs, and (2) professionals who have expertise in
98 economics, housing, child welfare, labor, workforce development, social
99 services administration or legal representation issues concerning low-
100 income recipients of state and federal public benefits.

101 (c) The Commissioners of Social Services and Early Childhood may
102 seek any waiver from federal law deemed necessary to implement such
103 pilot program and may pursue funding for such pilot program from any
104 governmental or nongovernmental source.

105 (d) Not later than December 1, 2025, and annually thereafter until the
106 pilot program is completed, the Commissioners of Social Services and
107 Early Childhood shall file a report, in accordance with the provisions of
108 section 11-4a of the general statutes, with the joint standing committees
109 of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to
110 appropriations and the budgets of state agencies, education, housing,
111 human services and labor on the development of any pilot program
112 authorized pursuant to this section.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2025	17b-112(d)
Sec. 2	from passage	New section

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

In Section 1(d)(3), "up to sixty cumulative months" was changed to "for a period of time not to exceed sixty cumulative months" for clarity, in

Section 2(a), "produced in accordance with special act 24-8" was changed to "submitted to the General Assembly in accordance with the provisions of special act 24-8" for accuracy and in Section (2)(b), "pilots" was changed to "pilot programs" and subdivision designators and "professionals who" were inserted, for clarity.

HS *Joint Favorable Subst.*